

FILED

AUG 28 2014

New Jersey State Board of
Massage and Bodywork
Therapy Examiners

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF MASSAGE AND BODYWORK
THERAPY

IN THE MATTER OF THE
APPLICATION OF

ROMA C. HOUGH

FINAL ORDER OF
DENIAL OF LICENSURE

TO PRACTICE MASSAGE AND
BODYWORK THERAPY IN THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy ("the Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Roma C. Hough submitted an application for licensure by the Board.
2. On Ms. Hough's application, she indicated that she had never been charged with or convicted of any crime or offense.
3. A criminal history background check revealed that Ms. Hough had been charged in 2007 with smuggling contraband into prison. She was found guilty of conspiracy to provide, and of providing, contraband (tobacco and marijuana) in prison. She was sentenced on July 9, 2008 to three years probation, with the first six

months of probation to be home confinement, and assessed \$5,200 in fines/costs.

4. The applicant claimed that she did not disclose the conviction because she believed it had been expunged and would not be revealed by the background check.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Ms. Hough's failure to disclose the arrest and conviction on her application constitutes misrepresentation in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:11-21(b).

2. The conduct underlying Ms. Hough's conviction constitutes an act of moral turpitude within the intendment of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(f). Ms. Hough's failure to disclose the conviction on her application constitutes an indication of lack of rehabilitation.

DISCUSSION

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline denying respondent's application for licensure to practice as a massage and bodywork therapist in the State of New Jersey was entered on April 23, 2014. A copy was forwarded to Respondent's last known address by means of both regular and certified mail. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th day following entry unless Respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law

by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting Respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Respondent replied to the Provisional Order of Discipline on May 12, 2014, providing the Board with two letters of reference, from her employer and a co-worker, and a personal statement. Respondent did not provide proof or claim she had sought an expungement, and did not provide proof that she has paid the fines she is responsible for as part of her criminal punishment. Individual applicants to Massage and Bodywork Therapy are responsible for submitting a truthful application, including disclosure of any criminal convictions. The nature of her offense followed by her decision to not report it on the application shows a pattern of conduct that would negatively impact her professionalism.

For the reasons set forth in the POD and above, the Board has ample grounds to deny Respondent licensure. Accordingly, the Board considered this matter, and determined that Respondent's submission did not provide any new information or documentation that indicated a hearing was necessary and the Provisional Order should be made final.

ACCORDINGLY,

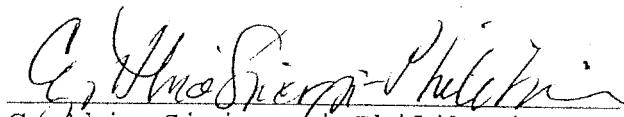
IT IS on this 28th DAY of August, 2014,

ORDERED that:

1. Ms. Hough's application for licensure as a massage and bodywork therapist in the State of New Jersey is hereby denied. No subsequent application for licensure will be entertained for a period of two years, dating from the filing of a Final Order in this matter. At the time of any subsequent application for licensure, Ms. Hough shall be required to satisfy all licensure requirements and to demonstrate that she has been making good faith attempts to pay the monies owed to the State.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF
MASSAGE AND BODYWORK THERAPY

By:


Cynthia Sinicropi-Philibosian
Chairperson